THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Repair of crashlanding airbus A-300

1346. SMT. KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airbus A-300 of the Indian Airlines which crash-landed into a rice field near Tirupati in November, 1993 is still lying there ;

(b) what steps government intend to take with regard to the repair of this aircraft ; and

(c) how economically viable is such repair, particularly in view of the losses already incurred by Indian Airlines in the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to repair this aircraft as the Insurers have agreed to consider the aircraft as constructive total loss and settle the insurance claim at the full insured value of the aircraft. Therefore the aircraft, in its damaged condition, will be the property of Insurers.

Vacancies of trainee pilots for SC/ST in Air India

1347. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has a number of vancies for the post of "Trainee Pilots" for the SC/ST.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) the number of SC/ST category candidates selected each year for the post "Trainee Pilots".

(d) whether there is any backlog of unfilled vacanices of "Trainee Pilots" of SC/ST category in Air India at present.

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;

(f) whether Government propose to fill up the backlog at the earliest ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Ordeal of Air India Passengers for Hong Kong via Delhi

1348. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Pioneer dated the 18th January, 94 regarding the ordeal of Air India passengers for Hong Kong via Delhi ;

(b) if so, whether Government have inquired into the matter ;

(c) if so, what is the factul position ; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Due to bad weather conditions at Delhi airport on 15-1-94, four flights of Air India returned to Bombay and three flights overflew Delhi before landing at Bombay. Air India flight No. 310 of 15-1-94 returned to Bombay and it was not possible to make arrangements for operation of another flight immediately. The flight was later cancelled due to Engineering and operational constraints. Since large number of passengers were in transit, it was not possible to provide hotel accomodation to all the stranded passengers. However, Air India provided assistence to the stranded passengers to the extent possible.